

Country Journal

Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns

Becket, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

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HILLTOWNS

Local libraries receive \$3k grants

By Mary Kronholm

The Porter Memorial Library in Blandford, Hamilton Memorial Library in Chester and the Otis Library and Museum have all received \$3,000 from the American Library Association.

The grants are through the ALA's Libraries

Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries. All the libraries will focus on community interaction and discussions. As part of the grant program, the three libraries will receive training in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to 21st-century librarianship. Library workers will complete a free ALA

e-course on basic facilitation skills; host at least one conversation with community members on a chosen topic; and the \$3,000 to support community engagement efforts. According to the ALA award, the funds may cover a range of expenses, including staff time and collections and technology purchases. ALA has award-

ed five other Massachusetts libraries awards as well. They are Cotuit, Colrain, Oakham, Stow and Millville. Porter Memorial Library Director Nicole Daviau will conduct community conversations between now and July 31 with residents with special memories of town and

LIBRARIES, page 2

HAMPSHIRE

School presents early budget draft

By Peter Spotts

In preparation for the first budget hearing for fiscal 2022 on Monday, Feb. 1, Principal Kristin Smidy presented a pre-preliminary budget to give School Committee members and town officials an idea of what will be on the table for discussion on Monday, Jan. 11. Smidy stressed the importance that everything presented is a “dream” budget scenario and any potential budget increases have a lengthy discussion process to go through involving the committee, the towns, and the school.

BUDGET, page 7

GLORIOUS GLENDALE



The majestic Glendale Falls in Middlefield are an ever-flowing attraction during the winter months. Submitted photos



Liz Massa and Ronnie pose with the scenic backdrop of Glendale Falls.

GATEWAY

Soccer coach honored with MIAA Coach of the Year

By Shelby Macri

Girls' Soccer Coach Stephen Estelle was recognized by the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Girls Soccer Coach of the year of the 2019 season, which was his last season before he retired. Due to the shutdown and quarantine last year, there were no award ceremonies held and the ceremony for was postponed to Wednesday, Jan. 6, as a virtual banquet. Estelle coached

for 40 years, and continue coaching after retiring from teaching in 2014. Estelle was a history teacher for 28 years and taught Social Studies in Middle School, all while still coaching and staying involved with the students. “This is not my first award, I’ve received a few from the coaching association and I’ve gotten coach of the year in 2012 from the Springfield Republican,” Estelle said. “I never expected to get an award from such a big organization as MIAA. It’s the athletic director and

my three captains that got me here.” Gateway Athletic Director Matt Bonenfant took over the Girls' Soccer team during 2020, and worked with Estelle while he coached the Gateway teams. The three captains were Jessie Walton, Jessica Van Heynigen, and Ava Auclair, who helped to keep the team successful during the season. There were 28 other coaches around the state that were honored as well, and the MIAA website said the award “...seeks to recognize

and honor teacher coaches who have had an impact on the lives of student-athletes, by encouraging them to succeed and by helping them develop self-confidence, ambition, a sound work ethic, and other skills or values necessary or helpful for success in their later lives.” This is part of the reason why Estelle thanked his team captains and support from the school to help the team and players stay successful. Estelle said this past

COACH, page 7

WESTHAMPTON

Town receives grant extensions

By Shelby Macri

The Selectboard received an update from COVID-19 Coordinator Susan Bronstein on the state funds for COVID-19 related issues and events on Monday, Jan. 4. Bronstein said the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency both extended their deadlines for towns to use relief money through December 2021. Originally, both FEMA and MEMA had a deadline of December 2020, where the town had to spend all or most of the grant money provided. With COVID-19 effects continuing into the new year, the organizations decided to extend the use of funds.

GRANT, page 12

WORTHINGTON

Resident awarded recyclable duties

By Peter Spotts

The town shut down the collection of returnable bottles at the transfer station last March for safety reasons, but the Selectboard is looking to bring the service back and needs a reliable person to take on the task and awarded the duty on Tuesday, Jan. 5, to resident Joey Granger.

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HILLTOWNS

RUSTIC REMNANTS



Left, Liz Massa and Russ LaPierre look for a path over a stone wall while exploring in Chesterfield. Right, Karen McTaggart finds the point where snow meets grass. Submitted photos

New book details heroin addiction in western Massachusetts

By Dalton Zbierski

During the COVID-19 pandemic, another grave epidemic has all but slipped from the public eye. Opioid addiction is a crisis, one that takes the lives of thousands of Massachusetts residents each year and has plagued the region for decades.

Mike Tourville, an Agawam author with Chicopee roots, recently completed “Voices from the Fallen,” a book that chronicles the struggles of eight western Massachusetts residents battling substance abuse.

“These aren’t case studies; case studies are dry and clinical. These are deeply personal,” said Tourville, who’s publication is available on Amazon both in print and digitally.

“You almost feel like you’re in the story yourself; you feel like you’re part of it and you feel what they feel. That’s what I wanted to do with this; make people feel like they’re living it with them.”

As it delves into the depths of addiction, “Voices from the Fallen,” is based entirely true. The background of each real-life character differs from the next, Tourville’s deliberate attempt to ensure

that the book reaches a variety of targeted audiences.

“A reader may say, ‘Seven of these stories don’t jive with me, but one of them did,’ and that’s all that matters. That can be the difference,” said Tourville. “There’s a 53-year-old grandfather, who started using heroin. I’ve got a pregnant woman who is using heroin and a Hispanic guy from Holyoke. I’ve got a 19-year-old kid who lives in a very affluent neighborhood and everything in between.”

Each story featured within “Voices from the Fallen” is portrayed in the first person, allowing readers to emotionally connect with characters.

Not all of the characters make it out alive; Tourville spent countless hours researching and communicating with families who have been affected by the opioid epidemic.

Tourville, who has two teenage granddaughters, wrote the book in an attempt to educate youths, both locally and nationally, on the dangers posed by substance abuse. He walked a fine line as he compiled each story, hoping to create



Mike Tourville

a product that is suitable for a high school classroom.

“I didn’t want to white-wash it, but it couldn’t be too graphic. It was really important to have this be accepted by high school students and be recommended by teachers and parents,” said Tourville. “What’s the point of having a book that helps to prevent drug use if parents don’t want their high school-aged children reading it? I had to write it with that in mind and didn’t want to turn people off.”

Thus far, “Voices from the Fallen” has received rave reviews from a number of sources. Actor Dean Cain remarked that it does a, “Fantastic job taking us into the mind of the addict.”

Agawam Mayor William Sapelli was also left with a positive impression. He cited the importance of communicating difficult stories in an attempt to ensure the safety of the community.

“These hard-hitting experiences are extremely impactful and have the potential to save lives of those in a similar situation,” said Sapelli. “The extraordinary courage of these individuals and family

members to share their personal stories with the intent of assisting others goes above and beyond expectations. This book is essential reading for those who are at risk or know anyone who may be.”

While the book is finished, Tourville’s mission is not complete; more stories are to come. Tourville expressed his desire to continue engaging audiences of all backgrounds to increase knowledge regarding the severity of drug addiction in western Massachusetts.

Common perceptions and stereotypes can be quite misleading, and Tourville hopes to demolish them. “Voices from the Fallen” serves to remind the public that an individual in need of assistance can be closer than one may think.

“The hard part of that is there’s such a diverse group of people who are affected by substance abuse,” said Tourville. “It’s old people, it’s young people, it’s males and it’s females; people of different races and levels of affluence. I’m hoping this book can inspire people to step up and do something because too often a lot of people don’t know what to do.”

LIBRARIES

from page 1

the library that they would like to preserve and share. A unifying thread in the community is their love for the town and their respect for its history. This is the focus for conversations to come.

The topic comes as a result of seeing memories of the library on the library’s Facebook page, according to Daviau. These conversations will create new and cross-generational connections with residents and build an understanding of the variety of experiences in the shared place.

The memories and stories will begin the library’s oral history collection, “The Stories of Blandford.” These stories will then be transformed into large individual pages with pictures provided by the Blandford Historical Society with one story per page. Pages will be displayed two at a time in the Watson Park Storywalk; one at the beginning and another at the end.

A multitude of topics for discussion will cover school, holiday celebrations, fair times, parades, performances, raising animals and farming, memories of daily life, ice and snow and severe weather in town. People will sign up ahead of time and specify a category to share a story for. A separate time can be set to record other memories.

After each session, the audience will discuss how these experiences compare to their experiences now and how they

feel about the changes over time. There will be three sessions of this program, each lasting an hour and each having three topics.

Louis Daviau has volunteered his time and talent to build permanent storywalk signs.

Nicole Daviau said, “I look forward to fostering conversations where town residents can share their memories that have been shaped by Blandford and Porter Memorial Library.”

The conversations will be preserved as part of the storywalk.

“Documenting these experiences and then featuring them within the storywalk will connect generations and neighbors,” said Daviau. She added that Porter Memorial Library has been connecting neighbors with books and each other since 1892; this project will continue that legacy and expand it, by bringing it out of the library and into the park.

Director of the Hamilton Memorial Library Angelique Toroni’s topic focuses on “a Covid-19 Time Capsule which will consist of stories and pictures of members in our community regarding the life transforming affects this pandemic has made in their lives.”

Toroni said in her project overview, “The way I arrived at this particular subject was from the stories I heard from my patrons. Every time a community event was canceled due to COVID-19, I heard

their fears and frustrations. Their desire was to be engaged with their community again.” The fear that life will never get back to being “normal” and the frustration to having daily changes that are affecting their lives.”

Chester will benefit from this project as the library contributes to local history. Toroni believes the project will restore feelings of purpose and will help the process of healing and wholeness. The project will take place through several methods. The library will conduct a COVID-19 survey on the affect it has had on people and collect pictures taken during the time of isolation. An anonymous mental health survey will be included and information gleaned will be used to provide library materials on mental health and self-help for patron use. She will also develop a resource sheet with local mental health services along with information on alcoholism, domestic violence and elder neglect which will be distributed throughout our community and available through the library.

There will be an additional electronic component to the project of live video recordings of interviews along with photos and written narratives.

After all the information is assembled, the library will publish a book accompanied by a video. Every family that participates will receive a book as well as the library, the Historical Society,

Town Hall, the school and the museum.

Toroni said, “The Hamilton Memorial Library is extremely excited to do this project. I know it’s a huge undertaking but I’m up for the challenge.”

Director of the Otis Library and Museum, Kathy Bort’s grant, written by trustees, will work to promote cultural diversity. According to the project overview, the library feels the “grant can help our library sponsor readings and discussions” framed by identifying biases and how biases might “impact our schools, town offices and police, fire and EMT Departments.”

Conversations will consist of inviting local citizen speakers and others to share experiences regarding diversity and bias in Otis and outreach to the Farmington River Regional School District to see about providing curriculum support regarding multicultural awareness professional development. The storywalk behind the library will be enhanced with more books, music and take-home crafts focused on diversity. The library will sponsor readings and discussions for teens and elementary students and will also work with FRRSD to select books for those age groups. Finally, the library will collaborate with the Diverse Otis Committee on a One Book-One Community reading and discussion. The Diverse Otis Committee will select the book.

HILLTOWNS

Three County Fair enters 2021 in uncertain territory

The Three County Fair has closed its office for the winter season and instituted staff cuts and furloughs to help the 202-year-old organization survive the extended shutdown of the fairgrounds due to the COVID-19 health crisis. The cuts will affect each staff member, and includes a fourteen percent salary reduction for senior management, and staggered furloughs for all employees. Furloughs could be extended if the fairgrounds are unable to host postponed 2020 events in the spring, which include over a dozen different horse shows from April through October, plus a variety of concerts and festivals.

The Three County Fair entered 2020 on solid ground after completing 2019 as its most successful year since horse racing ended at the fairgrounds in 2005, thanks to a widely attended Labor Day weekend Fair, and another full slate of horse shows and festivals. But with reoccurring operational expenses and more than one million dollars in lost 2020 event revenue, the Fair will run out of reserves sooner rather than later.

“Like the majority of businesses, 2020 has been a struggle and we have been cutting operational expenses since the shutdown, but we are now activating contingency plans that will extend our lifespan a little longer,” said James Przypek, general manager of the Three County Fair. “The organization would be out of money already if it weren’t for the original Federal CARES Act, the Fair’s vision to invest in a solar system more than eight years ago, a prominent winter

storage business, along with the generosity of many of our Directors.”

The Fair received a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Loan in mid-May, which has since been exhausted and forgiven by its lender and the SBA.

“The PPP Loan was a blessing,” said Przypek, “It allowed us to keep everyone employed and work non-stop with our event partners preparing to host events under the state’s guidelines over the summer and into the fall. But the delayed Massachusetts Phase 3 reopening, along with the Governor Baker’s rollback of gathering sizes for events, and travel advisories this summer forced all of those events to postpone or relocate to other venues with less restrictive guidelines. Those actions effectively crippled our organization for years to come.”

Even with its challenges, Fair officials are most proud of being able to organize two different events in 2020 that benefitted the community. The Fair held a food drive on May 9 that collected more than 2,000 pounds of food for local pantries in the three Western Mass counties the Fair represents. The other occurred over Labor Day weekend at the fairgrounds.

“We hosted our 203rd consecutive Three County Fair,” said Przypek. “The Fair was closed to the public, we implemented extensive virus mitigation protocols and operated only a handful of agricultural competitions to comply with the state’s gathering size orders.”

He continued, “We had our baking,

arts and craft competitions for adults and kids, plus youth dairy, oxen, rabbit and sheep shows. It was extremely rewarding to give kids that opportunity to continue their education and involvement in agriculture, plus the arts and other skills. The feedback we received from the participants and on social media was tremendous. But at the same time, it was extremely bittersweet because the fairgrounds are comprised of more than 50 acres of wide-open outdoor spaces and over a dozen open-air barn buildings. And we were limited to no more than 25 people in a building and no more than 50 people on the property at one time.”

Przypek added reopening to horse shows in the spring of 2021 will be critical for the organization.

“Horse show events have successfully operated during the pandemic in neighboring states including Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and even in other Massachusetts communities with protocols in place,” he said. “We have been very frustrated with local and state officials who keep changing the standards for businesses, public and private gatherings. They are not familiar with the amount of outdoor space, and large open-air facilities we have on the grounds, or how horse shows are events that are spaced out with competitions taking place throughout the day and in different areas with few spectators.”

The fairgrounds were also holding out for hope in the form The Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act, which was introduced

to Congress on July 30, a bi-partisan bill from Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-California) and Rep. Billy Long (R-Missouri). The legislation would provide \$500 million dollars in grant funding to rescue fair organizations like the non-profit, Three County Fair.

“The bill has over 50 congressional co-sponsors since it was first presented, including Congressmen Richard Neal and James McGovern locally. We need this bill passed badly,” Przypek said. “We have applied for other grants this year and have not been successful. The original CARES Act was a step to stabilize the economy for the first few months of the crisis, but now we are looking at almost a year of minimal business while inaction and partisanship continues in Washington. Without the Agricultural Fairs Rescue Act or additional stimulus for non-profits, I fear that our organization, which has survived for more than two centuries may be no more.”

Located in Northampton, Massachusetts and incorporated in 1818, the Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden County Agricultural Society promotes agriculture, agricultural education, agricultural science, and sustainability for the region through exhibitions, displays, competitions and demonstrations. It annually operates The Three County Fair, recognized by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture as the oldest on-going Fair in continuous operation in the U.S.A, with the first Three County Fair taking place, Oct. 14 and 15, 1818 and every year since without interruption.

Girl Scout cookie season launches with safe sales strategies

Local Girl Scouts will put to use new sales strategies and technology skills honed during a global pandemic as Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts kicks off the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie season. The cookie season like no other begins this Friday, Jan. 15.

Girl Scouts are selling in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe during a challenging time. Even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, girls are adapting their sales methods to share the joy of Girl Scout Cookies through the largest girl-led entrepreneurship program-including taking contact-free pick-up and delivery orders through a new national collaboration with Grubhub. Additionally, Girl Scouts of the USA is making online cookie ordering available nationwide on Feb. 1 so consumers who don’t know a Girl Scout can still purchase cookies from a local troop for direct shipment to their homes or donation to local organizations.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program has long taught girls how to run a business via in-person booths, door-to-door activity, and the Digital Cookie platform

online, which GSUSA launched in 2014.

With the COVID-19 pandemic girls are faced with the same challenges as other small businesses. Girls in Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire counties quickly pivoted their sales methods. From running virtual cookie booths on social media to participating in drive-through locations to facilitating orders that ship directly to customers’ doors, girls as young as five years old are continuing to embrace their entrepreneurial spirits, stay connected to their communities, and have fun by participating in the cookie program. The proceeds from each and every purchase stay local with the troop and Girl Scouts of Central & Western Massachusetts to power Girl Scouts’ essential leadership programming.

Here are the ways local Girl Scouts will be selling cookies this year:

- **Online:** Girl Scouts will be selling cookies online through Digital Cookie and social media (with parental supervision) to promote their virtual cookie business to friends and family. Whether its emails, door hangers, or virtual cookie booths, customers will have contact-

less purchase and delivery options as well as the option to donate cookies to GSCWM’s Project Care & Share (cookies for U.S. service men and women).

- **Cookie Booths:** Drive-through cookie booths, “lemonade stand style” neighborhood booths, and traditional storefront cookies booths at local establishments including GNC. Girls are exploring new and innovative ways to sell cookies directly to the public while also making sure to follow COVID-19 safety protocols based on Governor Charlie Baker and local health board restrictions.
- **Grubhub and GSUSA National Online Cookie program:** New this year, customers can support their local Girl Scouts by purchasing through Grubhub in select areas including Holyoke, Lee and Worcester. Customers who don’t know a Girl Scout will still be able to order from a local Girl Scout through GSUSA’s National Online program. Both methods offer contactless online purchase and delivery.

All purchases of Thin Mints, Samoas, Lemon-Ups, and other Girl Scout Cookie favorites are an investment

in girl leadership in your local community. With every sale, the Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches girls how to think like entrepreneurs as they run their own small businesses and learn skills like goal setting, money management, business ethics, people skills, and decision making-which are imperative for any leadership role. And girls decide how to use their portion of the proceeds for unforgettable leadership experiences and community projects, while GSCWM depends on the funds to deliver life-changing Girl Scout programming to 7,000 members in central and western Massachusetts.

To find cookies, visit www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/all-about-cookies/support-girls-success.html.



HUNTINGTON

NORWICH HILL


The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

For the Second Sunday after Epiphany, our reading from John 1:29-39, invites us to wonder how we join experience and witness to embody the good news that we are known and loved.

The pastor is always available to

speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at “Norwich Hill” for updates, information and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.



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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

History Matters

January 1 to January 15

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

Whatever you call it: “Continental Colors,” “Congress Flag,” “Cambridge Flag,” or “Grand Union Flag,” it was the first national flag of the United States. According to historical lore, George Washington unveiled it Jan. 1, 1776, during the American Revolution, but the stars and stripes motif encompassed a replica of the British flag in the upper left-hand corner.

“It was sort of a compromise between the radicals who wanted to see a separate nation, and the people who were more conciliatory, and wanted to see some accommodation with the crown,” according to historian and flag expert David Martucci.

The History Channel noted in June of 1777 that “the Continental Congress adopted a resolution stating, ‘the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white’ and that ‘the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.’”

To learn more, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Kevin Keim’s and Peter Keim’s “A Grand Old Flag: A History of the United States Through its Flags.”

It is difficult for the iPhone generation to fathom the complexities of communication throughout history. For decades, telephones used hard-wired landlines to commence a call. And before that: the telegraph – an invention by Samuel Finley Breese Morse, who demonstrated its “efficiency” via an electrical impulse on January 6, 1838. It came with a code that Morse created using dots and dashes--instead of the alphabet--to move a message from point A to point B.

He formulated the idea in 1832; by 1838, with the assistance of his two partners, Leonard Gale and Alfred Vail, he had a working model. Morse requested funding from Congress to make the prototype. It included construction of overhead wires between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland, but the legislators demurred.

Five years later, he garnered the approval, and the money, to proceed; on May 24, 1844 Morse sent his first telegraphic message: “What hath God wrought.”

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends Lewis Coe’s “The Telegraph: A History of Morse’s Invention and Its Predecessors in the United States.”

The U.S. Constitution was signed into law by the delegates of the Constitutional Convention in September of 1787. It structured the federal government, explained the essential laws of the country and guaranteed basic rights for every citizen.

But it was not the first American Constitution. That inaugural document was written and adopted on Jan. 14, 1639, by the settlers from the original Massachusetts Bay Colony, who had migrated to the Connecticut River Valley. It was known as the Fundamental Orders.

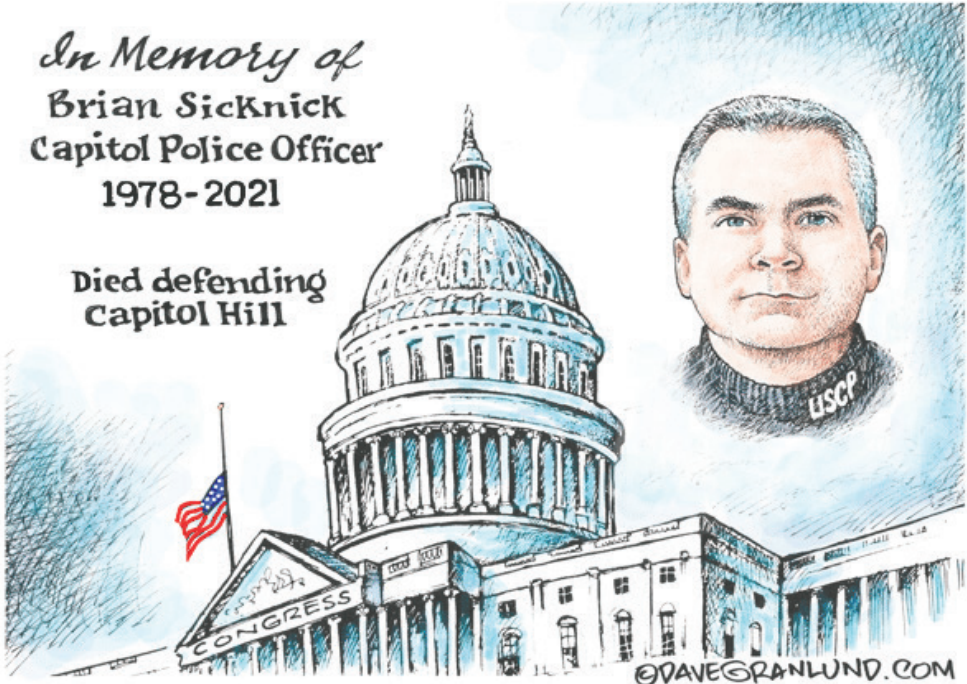
According to History.com, “Roger Ludlow, a lawyer, wrote much of the Fundamental Orders, and presented a binding and compact frame of government that put the welfare of the community above that of individuals. It was also the first written constitution in the world to declare the modern

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why people hate Trump

These are some of the reasons everyone hates Trump. First, he made the U.S. the largest energy producer in the world. Second, he made us energy independent from foreign oil. Third, he dropped prices of medications, in some cases by 50%. Fourth, he signed the Save Our Seas Act, which funds \$10 million per year to clean tons of plastic and garbage from our oceans. Fifth, he signed the largest wilderness protection and conservation bill in a decade, designating 375,000 acres as protected land. Six, he has kept almost every campaign promise (with zero support from congress who worked against him daily). Seventh, he has worked for free, and donating his salary to different charities. Eighth, he has done more for the black community than any other president. Ninth, he helped Senator Scott and passed a bill to invest in Opportunity Zones to help minorities. He also passed a prison reform bill, which gives people a second chance, and has made quite a huge difference for the black communities. He also made winning reforms in signing new trade deals that benefit our country, instead of costing the U.S. more money.

He has worked hard at trying to end child trafficking and drugs and criminals coming into our country by building a wall on our southern borders. He was a billionaire before he took office and has lost a third of his money, by helping our country. He has

always supported our veterans, our military, and police. Or is he hated for making the rest of the world pay their fair share of the cost of the U.N., and does not sell out to other countries. The Democrats hate him because he is trying to lessen the control they want to hold over industry and the people of this country. He calls the media fake news because they censor what they tell us. Case in point the riots in Seattle, WA., Portland, OR, New York, NY and others. These are only some of the reasons to hate Trump. Let alone that we had the lowest unemployment in the last seventy years, and interest rates also. And don't forget lower taxes and less regulation on businesses. He did so much more for our country.

Now remember Biden is going to save us, by ending all that Trump has done. So, we need to be fearful for what was voted for.

The news networks said Trump would start WWII. It did not happen. Why? Strong military, thanks to Trump. It's been a long time since we had that.

The Democrats attacked him on his handling of the coronavirus. Trump promised a vaccine before the end of the year, promise kept. Biden got his first dose, then went on the news condemning Trump's handling of the pandemic. If that is not a hypocrite then I am wrong.

Ted Cousineau
Blandford

GUEST COLUMN

Fun finding flowers

One might say I have a soft spot for heirloom flowers. Learning about these antiques as a twenty-something when I started working at Old Sturbridge Village likely set the stage for what I dub a long-term love affair. Just today I placed orders for seeds of my favorites, among the many are a number of foxglove and pink species. Read on to learn about the cream of the crop of cottage garden favorites.

There has always been a secretive side to foxgloves, due in part to an unusual name and the potent medicine that is obtained from the plant. Legend has it that foxglove was derived from “folk’s glove”, folks referring to the elves and fairies of country lore. Another legend tells that the fox needed magical gloves to steal a chicken or two. A less fanciful explanation traces glove to gleow in Old English; a gleow was an ancient musical instrument made of bells suspended from a curved frame. I think the description fits the look pretty accurately! The following species I grow with success; please use caution when planting around children due to poisonous properties.

Native to Western Europe, the common foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*) has had a place

in North American gardens since its introduction during colonial times. Tall purple spikes grace rise from basal foliage and make a strong statement in the June garden in sun or part shade, fertile ground. Although biennial, this species will self-seed prolifically. Try ‘alba’ for a all white strain.

There are other, more subtle species of foxglove worthy of a home in your garden. One of my top picks is the Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*). Small flowers the color of liquid gold bloom up three to six-foot stems late in the summer. Although touted as being a biennial this species has happily returned for several years in my part shade, moisture retentive location. The yellow foxglove (*D. grandiflora*) is a reliable perennial, shorter than most, only 24 to 30 inches tall and blooming a soft yellow in early June. This species also prefers part shade and adequate moisture. The Grecian foxglove (*D. lanata*), a true biennial, has grayish flowers, blooming in July up three-foot stems. The straw foxglove (*D. lutea*) begins relatively short in stature but after three or four years can get quite tall at four feet. Its creamy flow-

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Possum Tips

By Deborah Daniels

Herein lies some tips for sharing property with possums. They’re not exactly pets. They’re rarely invited but there they are like your in-laws, just visiting until they can get back on their feet! Winters are tough on possums and they will take up residence wherever the easy meal is found. You see they do not hibernate.

So, what do we know about these nocturnal, marauding marsupials? Well, we only see Virginia opossums here in the USA and Canada. They are related to kangaroos and koalas, in that they carry their babies in pouches, hence the term marsupial. They are reclusive, solitary, and usually nomadic animals. Once the food runs out, they usually move on. They live in the woodlands near water. They are not aggressive. They only live one to two years, dying by starvation during prolonged, cold weather or under the wheels of cars. Their best defense is to climb a tree. They can do this because they have opposable thumb-like toes on their hind feet. They are not good runners. Their only other defense besides growling, hissing, and showing their teeth, is feigning death! They “play possum” when threatened. They fall in an instinctive death dive with their lips pulled back in a grimace, showing their teeth, possibly foaming at the mouth and releasing a foul-smelling green liquid from their anal glands. That hopefully repels any predator. They can feign death for up to four hours, not moving with a very slow heart and respiratory rate. Scientists call it an involuntary faint. It is an act for survival.

Opossums are called nature’s sanitation engineers. They will eat anything, specializing in mice, rats, moles, shrews, ticks, snakes, and carrion. You really couldn’t ask for a better garbage disposer, or for that matter pest controller. They will eat snails, slugs, worms, frogs, nuts, berries, birds and garbage. Benefits to cohabitation!

So why the fuss when they take up residence? Might it be their appearance? They have scraggly fur, a rat-like tail and those pointy sharp teeth, 50 grinders to be precise. That is their scariest feature. But heck, looking mean and ugly is part one of discouraging enemies from approaching and playing possum is act two, that hardly seems much of a defense. Worried about a bite? Possums do not have rabies. The theory is that because of their cold thermostat — their body temperature is 94 to 97 degrees Fahrenheit — viruses don’t survive in possums. What a relief!

Possums do not dig burrows. They



A possum seeks sanctuary in a tree during the night.

Submitted photo by Deborah Daniels



A Virginia Opossum carrying her babies.

Online image



A possum employs one of its best defense mechanisms — playing dead.

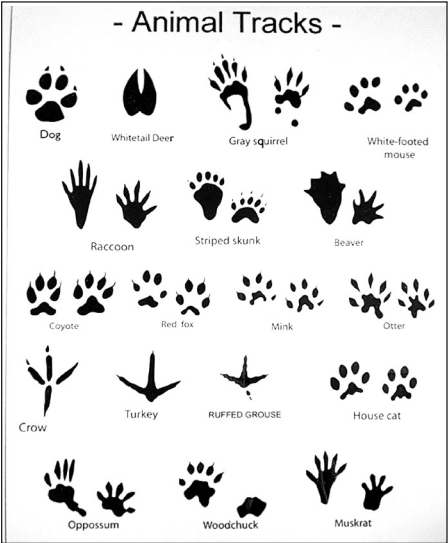
Submitted photo by Deborah Daniels

live in abandoned burrows, in road culverts, rock and tree shelters and in sheds, attics, garages and under homes. They do make nests with leaves. They will use their tails to carry leaves to a nest, see photo. YouTube has a very cute video called, Nest Building Opossum, watch it if you can. They are good swimmers.

Possums give birth to five to 13 babies in a litter. They usually give birth in February and July. Babies are born blind and hairless weighing 1.5 grams. They will crawl into their mother’s pouch where they will suckle and grow for two to three months. They then crawl outside and cling onto Mom for another two to nine months! If the babies are separated from Mom, they make sneezing sounds

for her to locate them. Unfortunately, many of these babies never survive to adulthood.

You say you already have a pet. Surprisingly, cats and possums often tolerate each other, avoiding interaction, but okay with living nearby. Dogs are sworn enemies, so without a handy tree to climb, a possum would be dead or playing dead more than being alive with a dog. However, the Opossum Society of the United States suggests that you leave PVC pipes eight inches in diameter lying in your yard for a possum to use as temporary shelter from being harmed by a dog. That way you will have some peace when you let your dog outside at night. Neighbors don’t like bark fests.



A chart outlines the different animal tracks that may be found in the woods.

Seriously, OSUS has a terrific website on possums, including where to find a possum rehabilitator, should you find one injured.

Not to dwell on tough times, but possums were the main event on many a dinner table during the Depression. Jimmy Carter reminisces about eating roast possum and sweet potatoes in his book “An Hour Before Daylight, Memories of a Rural Boyhood.” So, you might want to consider that possum you are sharing your property with a little insurance against food insecurity! Now go on and be possum tolerant.

Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you’d like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.

GARDEN

ers are a mere ¾ inches and are quite unusual, but lovely, and return year after year.

Now on to the pinks. Everyone knows what a florist carnation smells like, flowery with a hint of cloves. Imagine it, but reduce the scale of the flower size and loosen the head a bit and you will be on to Sweet William, (*Dianthus barbatus*). Prized by florists for its clustered, richly scented three-inch flower heads, seen in white, magenta, salmon and pretty bicolors. Technically a biennial, Sweet William will occasionally return for a third or fourth year of bloom but will likely be spindly at best.

Dianthus gratianopolitanus is a mouthful for a plant better known as Cheddar Pink. Settle for a few quarter-sized fragrant pink blooms in year one, but by mid-June of the second year of the plant, it will be at least a foot to 15 inches wide by eight inches tall with flowers too numerous to count. Each individual

floret is composed of five flat petals that get a bit deeper in tone near the center and tatter somewhat at the edge. Curly stamens popping up in the middle add to the interest.

Pheasant-Eye or Cottage Pink, (*Dianthus plumarius*), is less behaved than it cousin. The silver foliage has a tendency bend and grow in funny, rambling angles, making it a great candidate for draping over the edge of a raised border or rock wall. The flowers are fragrant still, but less prolific than those of Cheddar Pink. Similar in appearance too, except that they have an even more pronounced, dark eye against white, light pink and deep pink petals- giving it the name Pheasant-Eye!

The last pretty pink I’ll mention today is Fringed or Superb Pink (*Dianthus superbus*). It differs from Clove and Pheasant Eye in that its foliage is green and less spiky, more grass-like. And while the others top off under a foot, Fringed

Pink grows two feet tall or taller. Light pink or purple flowers are deeply fringed, giving them a very delicate appearance that is best admired (and sniffed!) up close.

Many of these *Dianthus* and *Digitalis* species are available by seed through JL Hudson, Seedsman (www.jlHUDSON-seeds.net) and Richters (www.richters.com). Plants are easy to grow, best started indoors in late February. Pinks prefer to sprout off-heat, but foxgloves benefit from heating cables. Light will aid in germination for both types; simply press the seed into the soil surface and do not cover.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

HISTORY

idea that ‘the foundation of authority is in the free consent of the people.’ In 1662, the Charter of Connecticut superseded the Fundamental Orders, though the majority of the original document’s laws and statutes remained in force until 1818.”

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends A. Chamberlain’s “The First Constitution Of Connecticut: The Fundamental Orders.”

History Matters A biweekly column courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which shows the nation’s children that their past is prelude to their future.

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BLANDFORD

Residents urged to return street list

BLANDFORD — Town Clerk Doris Jemiolo reminds residents of the annual street list mailing that goes out January 15.

Included in this year’s mailing to all households is a survey for use by the Resilient Master Plan Committee, which will help determine the town’s future for open space, recreation, development and more.

There will also be information from the Porter Memorial Library, a message from the Municipal Light Plant on how to sign up for high speed internet access, and a request from the Council on Aging.

Jemiolo also reminds residents that failure to return the street listing can result in a voter’s inactivation.

“It’s really in everyone’s best interest to return the form and list every member of the household,” said Jemiolo.

Open Burning Season begins Friday

BLANDFORD — Open Burning begins Jan. 15 and continues through May 1.

Permits are available through the Fire Department online via the town’s website at townofblandford.com. If a resident does not have internet access or has difficulty online, burning permits are available by telephone by contacting Fire Chief Dave Mottor at 413-848-4279, ext. 600.

The following regulations must be observed: Only brush may be burned; all other materials are illegal. No leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris or any other materials may be burned.

All open burning must be a minimum of 75 feet from buildings or structures.

Burning starts at 10 a.m. and must be extinguished by 4 p.m. Any open fire must be attended at all times by the permit holder.

No person shall set, maintain or increase a fire in open air at any time except by permission.

Burners must be 18 years or older to apply for a permit and set, maintain or increase a fire once permission has been granted by the Fire Department.

Burners must have an appropriate means to extinguish an open air fire completely at the end of the day or if requested by the Fire Department.

The Fire Department can refuse or cancel a permit at any time. For example, a violation of permit regulations or change in weather conditions.

Permits are only issued between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and only on the day anyone wants to burn. No permits will be issued in advance due to the potential change in weather conditions.

CHESTER

Apartments available through Hilltown CDC

CHESTER — Hilltown CDC is currently accepting applications for one studio and one one-bedroom apartment on the third floor of 1 School Street in Chester, MA. Tenancy is limited to those 55 years of age or older, or persons with disability.

Rents are subsidized by Massachusetts Rental Vouchers. Subsidies are based on income. Rent for studio before subsidy is \$774. Rent for one bedroom before subsidy is \$774.

Incomes limits are set at 80% of area median, and may not be more than the amounts listed: One person \$47,850; two person \$54,650.

Complete applications must be received by Jan. 31. Tenancy expected to begin in February. Applications will be mailed or emailed upon request. For more information, contact Property Manager Kristopher Severy at 413-296-4536 ext. 105, or kristephers@hilltowncdc.org.

MONTGOMERY

Library hosts storyteller for Zoom tales

MONTGOMERY — Professional storyteller Mary Jo Maichack is offering a new presentation recommended for older teens and adults, a live Zoom reading of three short stories from J.D. Salinger’s *Nine Stories*, followed by a participant discussion of the work.

“Three of Nine” Zoom interactive programs will take place on the last three Thursdays of January — Jan. 14, Jan. 21, and Jan. 28 — from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Grace Hall Memorial Library is funding this event.

The three stories featured will be “The Laughing Man,” “A Perfect Day for Bananafish,” and “For Esmé, with Love and Squalor.”

Maichack’s long career as a professional storyteller will bring a polished and nuanced reading of three stories. Her facilitation is kind and supportive. Patrons may want to pre-read the stories, but may simply attend the event and listen. For more information and to register, contact the library.

“Three of Nine” is a new development in Maichack’s 30-year storytelling career, the springboard for which was her Bachelor of Arts in English literature from Middlebury College, as well as her family roots. She has performed some 4,000 programs from San Francisco to Vienna, Austria. She has won two national awards for her CDs of storytelling and music, appeared on WGBY-PBS and on the National Storytelling Network, and currently serves as Massachusetts State Liaison to the NSN.

RUSSELL

Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures features Top ‘O The Hill Maple

RUSSELL — On Saturday, Jan. 16, Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures will be hosting Top O’ The Hill Maple as a feature presenter for their monthly soiree into the wilds of Moses Scout Reservation. Top O’ The Hill Maple is a maple sugaring producer in Blandford, MA. Owners Chuck, Trish, and Nathan Andrews will be showing WHOA participants what it takes to set up a maple syrup collection system. Using both modern day and antique tools, the Andrews will offer guided tours of the new Moses Scout Reservation “sugar bush.” Visitors will see how maple trees are selected for tapping, how the taps are inserted into the trees, and how other various equipment is used to collect the raw maple tree sap.

During the maple sugaring months of February and March, a trip to the Top O’ The Hill Maple has been a popular activity for past WHOA participants. After a short hike, or snowshoe, through the reservation’s back country, visitors are rewarded with the Andrews’ hospitality and samples of the sweet, freshly boiled, syrup from their “sugar shack” on Birch Hill Road. Although January is still too early for maple sugaring, Mr. Andrews wanted to share some of his 12 years of maple sugaring experience with the WHOA guests and build up some excitement for the upcoming sugaring season.

WHOA Director Mia Santos-Izyk, said that along with the terrific program the Andrews have planned, there are many other activities scheduled for the day.



Top O’ The Hill Maple owners Nathan, Trish, and Chuck Andrews will present the tricks of sap collection at the Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures on Saturday, Jan. 16.

“Visitors may still expect to experience such exciting events as our blacksmith shop, featuring our Forged in Fire contestant Dana Dupuis, ice fishing on the lake (if the ice is thick enough), winter bird feeding and identification, orienteering, escape challenges and the ever-popular scavenger hunt bingo,” Santos-Izyk said. “Mother Nature will not hold us back, if there’s enough snow guests may snowshoe along the reservation’s trails, but if there’s no snow folks may take out our mountain bikes (COVID-19 regulations require guests to bring their own helmet!)”

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions the registration cost for all

these activities remains at \$10 per person, regardless of age. The Jan. 16 activities all commence at 9 a.m. and end at 3: p.m. Regarding the COVID-19 regulations, Santos-Izyk advises all participants and WHOA staff that various modifications to the usual WHOA programs are still in place. Participants will be required to preregister and prepay on-line at; www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101. No walk-ins or onsite registrations will be permitted. Additionally, registrations will be limited, and participants may be asked to assemble into groups of 12 or fewer individuals. Typical social distancing will be practiced with mandatory face coverings required at all times whether

outside or in enclosed areas. A full list of WHOA’s COVID-19 modifications is available on its website at www.wmascouting.org/WHOA.

Each month Woronoco Heights Outdoor Adventures presents activities taking advantage of the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation’s 1300-acre camp, located a few minutes from I-90 Exit 3, at 310 Birch Hill Rd. in Russell, MA. The ever-growing list of activities are open to all. One does not need to be a Boy Scout to take part in a WHOA Saturday. Families, children, teens, adults, clubs, teams, and others may participate. All proceeds benefit various improvement projects and programs at the Horace A. Moses Scout Reservation.

More WHOA information may be found at www.wmascouting.org/WHOA; to preregister online visit www.wmascouting.org/WHOA202101. As WHOA’s director states, “It’s wintertime in the hills of the Berkshires so guests are cautioned to be prepared and dress warmly by wearing layers of clothing. Wear what will keep you warm, expect snow and/or ice-covered activity areas with terrain being be rocky, muddy, snowy or even icy. Therefore, wearing sneakers will be hazardous. Sturdy footwear will help keep one’s feet warmer and provide better support over uneven terrain. For those who might get chilled, the camp’s trading post will be open under a limited guest capacity...WHOA Rain, snow, or shine it doesn’t get any better than this!”

Winter season perfect for reading

RUSSELL — It’s a perfect time of the season to read books about winter animals. When visiting the Russell Public Library there is a section of books ready to go. Patrons will find nonfiction books about animal tracking, wolves, and owls, along with picture books of wildlife in the winter. Included in the selection is a

book of winter poems, by Robert Frost.

And whooo’s ready to read “Owl Moon,” and create some owl projects, and discovery the wonders of nature through creative activity packets? Visit the library or put an order in for curbside pick-up to get a copy. That’s OWL for now.

Strum with free online ukulele lessons

RUSSELL — Free online ukulele lessons for beginners to advanced beginners ages 8 and older will be available via Zoom, taught by teacher and performer Dave Maloof.

Lessons will begin the week of Jan. 18; a limited number of lessons are available. Anyone interested should contact Maloof at MusicPlusComedy@gmail.com to sign up and ask any questions about lessons or about buying a ukulele.

Maloof has presented Mass. Cultural

Council-funded ukulele workshops at the Russell Public Library and throughout Massachusetts, and also teaches individual lessons. Each lesson will be 30 to 45 minutes and will be adapted to the student’s level of playing and musical interests.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Russell Cultural Council, a local agency which is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

WORTHINGTON

RECYCLABLES

from page 1

The board had two people request an interest in the position — Granger and Mary Wheelan of Greenfield, representing the nonprofit organization Visioning BEAR Circle Intertribal Coalition, Inc. The board decided on Granger for being based locally and known reliability as he’s done the job in the past. The board had concerns with Wheelan being located in Greenfield, but she was not in attendance for the Zoom meeting.

“We’re talking about what could be a substantial number of bottles and cans. She didn’t indicate if she’s willing to come weekly? Biweekly?” Selectman Amy Wang said. “I don’t know if she realizes how much volume we could be talking about.”

“It sounds to me Mary looked at the notice that Charley [Rose] posted on the website, it sounded interesting, and thought she showed an expression of interest without indicating what her capabilities are,” said Selectman Steve Smith. “I really don’t want to put this off. We’ve got a good local volunteer. We’ve a history with nonprofits going back many years. They just last for a little while then their volunteers wear out.”

Granger also received 51signatures on citizen’s petition supporting him for the job and Transfer Station Attendant Sue Asher wrote to the board her support as well.

“I know Joey Granger as a trust-

worthy and reliable person and I look forward to working with him as he manages the returnable bottles and cans,” Asher wrote.

The proposal was first broached at the board meeting on Dec. 22, when Richard Mansfield met with the board on behalf of Granger about the opportunity to make some extra change through the redemption returns.

“Let’s call it a means of survival. He’s got to push the cans through a nickel at a time. It’s not a lucrative thing, but it does help quite a bit,” Mansfield said.

The individual or small business would be using town furnished storage containers and shed to remove returnables weekly and maintain the shed neatly so it’s not overfilled during open hours at the transfer station.

The board members were concerned about the prospect of awarding a position without any public posting before awarding the job to someone.

“My thinking on it, Richard, was that because of the fact there’s even a modest amount of money involved for the person who does it — It’s certainly not much I recognize that — I think the best municipal practices are we solicit proposals for this work, including private vendors, and just simply indicate the town will evaluate how we want to receive the proposals,” Chairman Charley Rose said.

Dog licenses available for 2021

WORTHINGTON — Dog licenses for 2021 are now available and any dogs old enough to be vaccinated for rabies should get a 2021 license by March 31.

Dogs must have a current rabies certificate when getting a license. The cost is \$5 for spayed or neutered and \$10 for male or female. Please mail or put the rabies certificate, fee, and a letter-sized self-addressed envelope in the drop box. Items can be mailed to the Town Clerk, P.O. Box 247, Worthington, MA 01098. Rabies certificates will be returned with the new tags.



Fund available for heating needs

WORTHINGTON — The Whiting Street Fund Committee would like to remind Worthington residents about the Whiting Street Fund as heating season peaks.

The fund exists for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to Worthington residents who are experiencing short-term financial needs. The fund helps individuals and families with expenses that directly affect their well-being. For example, assistance has been provided with medical expenses, car repair and, especially this time of

year, fuel bills. Any Worthington resident can apply for financial assistance by contacting a member of the Whiting Street Fund board.

The Board confidentially reviews all applications and if approved, arranges for the bill to be paid. For more information or to apply for assistance, either email the Board at WhitingStreet@worthington-ma.us or call any member — Bruce Barshefsky at 413-563-8888, Diane Meehan at 413-238-001, or Cath Whitcomb at 413-238-5968.

SCHOOLS & YOUTH

COACH

from page 1

year Bonenfant ran the Girls’ Soccer team, and he did a good job. Estelle was invited by the team and Bonenfant to some practices and games during the past season, and he was excited to see his players again. He feels Bonenfant handled the season well, especially with all the changes and restrictions that were incorporated. Estelle added he doesn’t think he would have adapted well to the

changes of the sport season.

Estelle was the head Soccer coach for 30 years and developed the Gateway Soccer program in 1990; he was also the Baseball Coach. He coached his teams to seven Western Mass Championships, three-time State Finalists, earned the 2012 Western Mass Division 3 Girls Soccer Coach of the year, and also received the Charlie

Niedzwiecki Award in 1997.

Estelle said it was a tough decision to retire in 2019, but he felt it was time. He joked that his wife has stood by him while he taught and coached, so it was time to spend time with her.

“It’s bittersweet; I do miss many things. I miss the players, building, and bonding with the team, and the staff I worked with,” Estelle said. “It’s been

great to work with a team like mine, and to be the head coach of an amazing soccer program with so many great student athletes. I’m glad I was able to see they perform this past year; it was good to see them again.”

Estelle is happy to add the award to his collection, but is even happier to see the soccer program doing well in his absence with Bonenfant at the lead.

BUDGET

from page 1

“I just wanted to make sure everybody is on the same page this is not what will necessarily be presented at the Feb. 1 hearing,” Smidy said. “This is just a preliminary discussion.”

The first set of increases for the school are not optional and there are \$145,583 in contractual raises due next year. This year, the raise is a 0.75% increase. Smidy also stressed the importance of additional professional development for all teachers, which would cost \$94,900. She views this as a onetime expenditure to help get the curriculum back on track after COVID-19 impacted the past year. She explained the standards and curriculum to ensure students have the necessary skills before moving on to the next course need to be re-evaluated.

“Those skills now have gaps in them,” Smidy said. “We need to really evaluate when students are learning certain skills and how it should be done and when it should be done.”

The school is also interested in adding annual anti-racism professional devel-

opment for teachers, which would cost \$53,040 plus \$3,700 for a trainer.

“This is what I would have if I was able to have everything I wanted,” she said. “This is a hefty cost, but I also think it’s pretty important for us to provide a pretty anti-racist education to our students. In my dream budget it would be an ongoing cost.”

Special education costs are always a concern. Smidy said the school is currently expecting three out of district students with special needs to come to the district next year, which would be a \$352,528 increase. However, because Hampshire Regional purchased itself its own vans a couple years ago, \$90,000 of the \$118,858 transportation cost would be covered dropping the total increase to \$262,528. Committee member Corey Brastad asked if this was the type of savings the school anticipated when it lobbied for the vans in the past.

“This is a bit more than I expected,” Smidy replied. “This savings I double or triple that [van investment]

in just one year.”

There are also some internet and technology items which may appear in the budget, but potential state or federal funding may also impact what the district needs to ask for. The school is closely monitoring the fluid budget situation and making adjustments throughout the budget process.

Southampton Selectman Matt Roland spoke about the situation in Southampton and it’s becoming difficult for the town to keep cutting every department in town, including Norris Elementary School, while HRHS goes up every year.

“We’re slashing police, fire upwards of \$30,000. We had to slash Norris \$60,000...we’re looking at another difficult budget year and its just become harder and harder to budget as a town and look at increases from Hampshire Regional High School,” Roland said. “I’m a huge believer in public education. I want these funds to be diverted and spent on our children. With that being said, it’s got to be fair and it’s got to walk through

the path of common sense.”

Goshen Finance Committee Chairman Dawn Scaparotti asked for Smidy to prepare a priority list for all school budget increases for Feb. 1. Smidy did one during the budget last year and Scaparotti said it was helpful for the towns to get a sense of what the budget needed.

“What is the priority from your perspective? [You’re] closer to the needs than we are,” Scaparotti said. “Just a cascading priority list if we couldn’t fund everything.”

Business Administrator Bobbie Jones did provide a list of estimates for what town assessments may looked like, but stressed the estimate of the figures are “very subject to change” due to having no state revenue numbers and having to use fiscal 2021 numbers in its place.

The preliminary budget hearing will be held on Monday, Feb. 1, at 6:30 p.m. For more information and the Zoom information closer to the meeting date, visit hrhs.net.

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Three farmers receive MFBAPF John and Liolia Schipper Grants

MARLBOROUGH – Following a competitive selection process, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Agricultural Preservation Foundation selected three farmers from 28 applications to receive grants from the John and Liolia Schipper Grant program. These grants are focused on assisting Massachusetts farmers in becoming more economically viable and sustainable.

“We saw a strong interest in this grant program again this year,” said Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation President Mark Amato. “This was made possible by a generous bequest from the late John and Liolia Schipper and is meant to assist deserving farmers develop their businesses. I look forward to seeing this year’s three farms complete their projects.”

Grant recipients include the following: Denise Barstow, who oversees a dairy farm based in Hampshire County. She will purchase equipment to upgrade their robotic milker.

Chris Parsons, who oversees a diversified livestock farm based in Hampshire County. He will purchase new grain bins to improve his herd’s nutrition.

Henry Sarafin, who oversees a diversified timber operation based in Hampshire County. He will be purchasing safety equipment to improve his operation, which will also improve productivity.

Applications for the 2021 grant program will be available next fall with a deadline of Nov. 1, 2021. Applicants must be a regular Farm Bureau member in good standing or be sponsored by a regular member.

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Russ LaPierre takes a test drive.



Karen McTaggart documents relic of a time long past while hiking in Chesterfield.
Submitted photos



The Hilltown Hikers explored the roads above Chesterfield Gorge and found old cellar holes during their hike.



Kim Kelliher pauses for a moment in a snowy field in Chesterfield.

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BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAK
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80% LEAN GROUND BEEF
\$3.07 lb

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER PICNIC
99¢ lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLET
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HUMMEL BROS. KIELBASA
\$4.99 ea

USDA INSP. STORE MADE KOREAN BBQ MARINATED
BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS.....
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SMOKED PORK SHOULDER.
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USDA INSP. FRESH
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USDA INSP. FRESH
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OTIS

Otis Library & Museum receives national grant for small and rural libraries

OTIS — The Otis Library has been selected as one of 200 libraries to participate in Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries, an American Library Association initiative that helps library workers better serve their small and rural communities.

The competitive award comes with a \$3,000 grant that will help the library to open lines of communication and create opportunities to develop an appreciation of racial and cultural diversity throughout the Otis community.

“We are fortunate to have two library trustees Gloria Mamokhin and Susan Ebitz who in addition to writing the grant have volunteered to be trained in facilitation and outreach through this amazing opportunity,” said Library Director Kathleen Bort. “This grant will allow them to facilitate discussions with residents to communicate effectively.”

As part of the grant, Otis Library Trustees Mamokhin and Ebitz will take an online course in how to lead conversations, a skill vital to community work. They will then host conversations with community boards, and residents and educators about racial and cultural diversity and use the grant funds to enhance the library collection in these areas for all ages from children to adults.

These efforts will articulate and interact with the Farmington River School as well other community organizations

such as The Otis Cultural Council, the Otis Recreation Department, and Diverse Otis. Town Departments including the Otis Police, the Board of Selectmen, the Technology Committee, and the Historic and Planning Commissions will be invited. Through this program, the library will use the talents and expertise of its diverse population to foster engagement and understanding.

If someone is interested in getting involved or taking part in the conversation, please contact Bort, Mamokhin or Ebitz, or send a note of interest to info@otislibraryma.org or call 413-269-0109 for more information.

More than 300 libraries applied for the grant, according to ALA. Eight Libraries from Massachusetts received awards.

Since 2014, ALA’s Libraries Transforming Communities initiative has re-imagined the role libraries play in supporting communities. Libraries of all types have utilized free dialogue and deliberation training and resources to lead community and campus forums; take part in anti-violence activities; provide a space for residents to come together and discuss challenging topics; and have productive conversations with civic leaders, library trustees and staff.

Libraries Transforming Communities: Focus on Small and Rural Libraries is an initiative of the American Library Association in collaboration with the Association for Rural and Small Libraries.

COVID-19 testing and flu shots available

OTIS — The Otis Council on Aging and community health programs are sponsoring COVID-19 testing and regular flu shots at the Otis Town Hall beginning on Friday, Jan. 15, and on each third

Friday thereafter. No appointment is necessary. Drive-through and mask wearing protocols will be in place. Please bring medical insurance cards. Hours will be 10 a.m. to noon.

MIDDLEFIELD

Open burning season permits available

MIDDLEFIELD — Open burning season begins on Friday, Jan. 15 and runs until May 1, weather permitting. Brush

permits can be obtained by calling Fire Chief Ron Radwich at 413-623-6456 or Deputy Chief Larry Pease 413-623-5072.

CUMMINGTON

Dog licenses due by March 31

CUMMINGTON — Dog licenses are available by mail through the Town Clerk. Please send the following info along with a check made out to the Town of Cummington to Town Clerk at P.O. Box 128, Cummington, MA 01026, or the information and check can be dropped off in the drop box located on the east side in the back of the community house near the back

entrance. licenses are due by March 31, 2021.

information required includes an updated rabies vaccination, name of dog, breed, color, age, new/renewal, spayed female, neutered male, name of owner, phone number, and address.

The cost is \$6 for spayed and \$8 for not spayed. Please have the check made out to the Town of Cummington.

CHESTERFIELD

PAYING RESPECTS



From left, Kim Kelliher, Linda Malchovsky, Liz Massa, Russ LaPierre, Michele Kenny, and Karen McTaggart made a snowy trek to the grave of Laura Cole Ellis in Chesterfield. Submitted photo

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a

message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available. The menu on Wednesday, Jan. 20, is lemon chicken, steamed peas, corn chowder, whole wheat bread, and applesauce.

BECKET

Selectman searches for funding source to extend local trail

By Shelby Macri

BECKET — Selectman Michael Lavery discussed plans for his proposed trail in town, something that he’s been working on since June 2019 at the Selectboard meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

This trail is a common site in town that people already visit occasionally, known as “Jacob’s Well,” “Jacob’s Pillow,” or “Jacobs Ladder.” Lavery has been applying for grants that can help to pay for the expenses of making the trail walkable. The trail that Lavery is working on is already existing and where people often walk; he is proposing that the trail is more defined with a loop added rather than having to turn around at the end. Though the grants he already applied for didn’t come through, Lavery isn’t done looking for options.

Currently Lavery is proposing to put the Community Preservation Committee grant as an article on the annual town meeting agenda. The CPC goes through the state and applications are due on Feb. 28. Lavery is planning on applying to help fix and preserve the trail. He explained he intends to apply for \$12,050 dollars for all the work that will be needed. Lavery wants to add the loop at the end to complete the trail and make it so that no matter which way someone goes, they will always get



Selectman Michael Lavery is proposing an addition to the existing trail known as “Jacob’s Well,” “Jacob’s Pillow,” or “Jacobs Ladder.” Submitted photo

back to the entrance.

“I have given the working name of ‘Esau’s Heel’ due to the shape of the end of the trail looking like a leg with a foot and the relevance to the other named areas in town,” Lavery said. “The biblical Jacob was a twin and his brother, who was born first, was named Esau. Apparently, Jacob held on to Esau’s Heel as Esau was exiting

the womb.”

Lavery also discussed making the entrance to the trail wider and lay so gravel to that there is a proper entrance, and it’s big enough for cars to park. Along with the CPC grant, Lavery reach out to a group called Greenagers. Founded in 2007, the group provides employment and volunteers opportunities for teenagers and young

adults in fields of conservation, sustainable farming, and environmental leadership. They help to prepare youth for success in their education and work by providing vocational-environmental programs with community engagement. Lavery was able to contact Greenagers to visit and walk the trail with him as they discussed changes to the trail and what plans Lavery had.

When talking about the trail Lavery said there will be no motorized vehicles allowed on the path, especially with all the work that will go into preserving the trail. People will be able to walk the trail as well as bike if they want. The current trail is three-quarters of a mile, so if someone waked to the end and back it’d be a mile and a half. The loop that Lavery wants to add would be about a quarter mile, but would go back in on itself and wouldn’t add to the total distance that’s walked.

Lavery will try every option he can before turning to the town for funding. A survey was put out by the CPC a few years ago, and the results showed that residents wanted more places in town to walk, bike, and exercise outside. The results were released online, and helped inspire Lavery to make this trail available to residents. The CPC grant information is also available online on the town website, www.town-of-becket.org, if anyone has questions or wants more information.

GOSHEN

Fire Department, COVID-19 relief a focus for town

By Shelby Macri

GOSHEN — During the Selectboard’s last meeting of 2020 on Monday, Dec. 28, there were a few discussions on the towns ongoing project, including COVID-19 updates, the Fire Department, and a recently popular program.

The pandemic impacted many areas of the town and local government, including residents being unable to have access to food. During the shutdown, the Hilltown Food Pantry has been open and serving anyone who needs help, though the demand has increased so the Selectboard will be reviewing their CARE’s Act funds to offer some financial support to the food pantry.

The town received the last of its funds from the CARE’s Act on Dec. 24, as the money was awarded in two rounds. Goshen received a total of \$83,625; most of the funds went to purchasing personal protective equipment

for first responders, portable air filter units for municipal buildings, equipment to facilitate remote meetings, and cleaning and disinfecting supplies. Town Administrator Dawn Scaparotti said one of the most critical items the funds were spent on included the Board of Health’s expanded public health mission.

“This includes the work our Board of Health Chair Michael Kurland is performing with the Foothills Health District, a privately contracted nurse, the State Department of Public Health in terms of ensuring the Town is following all public health department guidelines and protocols, including the critical COVID-19 tracking and contact tracing,” Scaparotti said.

The Selectboard and Board of Health have been diligently supplying the necessary tools needed to employees so everyone in town is safe during these uncertain times.

The town has two ongoing projects with the Fire Department. The depart-

ment building has some leakage that has led to a project with two phases of repair. The first phase was to find the source of the waters entrance to the building and the next phase is to look for any wet material, including insulation, ceiling tile, or drywall, and remove it.

Scaparotti explained a mold remediation would have to be considered if it were needed after material had been removed. The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, the town’s insurance company, will cover any necessary material removal and mold remediation work. The first phase of the project found the reason for the leak, which included worn areas of the building. The second phase of the project was expected to begin this week.

“It was determined to be as a result of worn mastic and fasteners that attach the rake time to the standing seam roof panels due to wear and tear over the life of the building as well as worn flashing

on both sides of the cast iron vent stacks and heater vent flashing,” Scaparotti said. “The roof repair was completed last week by the company that originally built the facility, Crocker Building Company.”

The second project for the Fire Department includes the replacement of the department’s well, which was approved as part of the Capital Plan years ago. The project is just getting underway because of other pressing capital projects as well as the surprise of COVID-19. The town can expect an improved Fire Department building and well when the projects are complete.

“The Fire Department currently has a shallow well and it has been contaminated over the years with road salt and the water is not potable,” Scaparotti said. “Quotes for drilling an artesian well have been received and the project will be awarded at an upcoming Selectboard meeting, and is expected to get underway in January.”

Open burning season begins Jan. 15

GOSHEN — Open burning season begins in the new year and run from Jan. 15 through May 1, as mandated by the state. Applications are available for those interested in doing an open burn.

The online application is available at Goshen-ma.us. Applicants will be asked for their name, telephone number, and location of the brush pile to be burned. Permits are only issued between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the day the burn is to take place. Permits may be requested for each day of burning. No permits are issued in advance due to the potential for changing weather conditions. On days when open burning is not permitted due to weather conditions, the online application will be disabled

All open burning fires must be

started by 1 p.m. and fully extinguished by 4 p.m. Failure to follow these rules can result in the revocation of your permit for the remainder of the open burning season. There is no fee for this permit.

Goshen residents who do not want to use the online application must call the Goshen Fire Department business line, 413-268-7161, to schedule an inspection and receive a written permit. Inspections of the brush pile will only be completed on Friday mornings, so plan accordingly. People who use the online application do not have to go through this inspection process.

For more information, applications, or open burning safety tips, visit goshen-ma.us/open-burning-permits

Street listing out, dog licenses available

GOSHEN — The 2021 annual street listings have been mailed to each household in Goshen. If someone hasn’t received one, printable blank copies are available on the Town Clerk webpage at www.goshen-ma.us, or contact the clerk’s office to receive another 413-268-8236 x107 and clerk@goshen-ma.us.

Please fill out info for everyone who lives in the house, sign and return to 40 Main St. Goshen, MA 01032. It is important the town keeps an accurate count of residents as it determines state and federal funding for the town. Responding to the street listing will also keep residents on the active voting list, if registered to vote.

Additionally, the 2021 dog licenses are in. A dog licensing form was mailed

with the street listing; neutered/ spayed dogs are \$5 each and intact dogs are \$10. Valid rabies certificates are required and must be sent with the dog license form. A certificate of spaying/neutering must also be sent to obtain a spayed female or neutered male license.

As the town offices are still closed to the public at this time, please send the dog license form, fees, and certificates along with a stamped self-addressed envelope for the return of the licenses and tags to Goshen Town Clerk, 40 Main Street, Goshen, MA 01032. Residents may also drop the paperwork off in the town clerk drop box, located to the left of the door to the town offices. Last year’s licenses expire on March 31, 2021.



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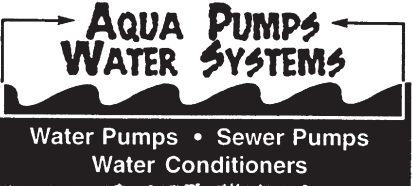




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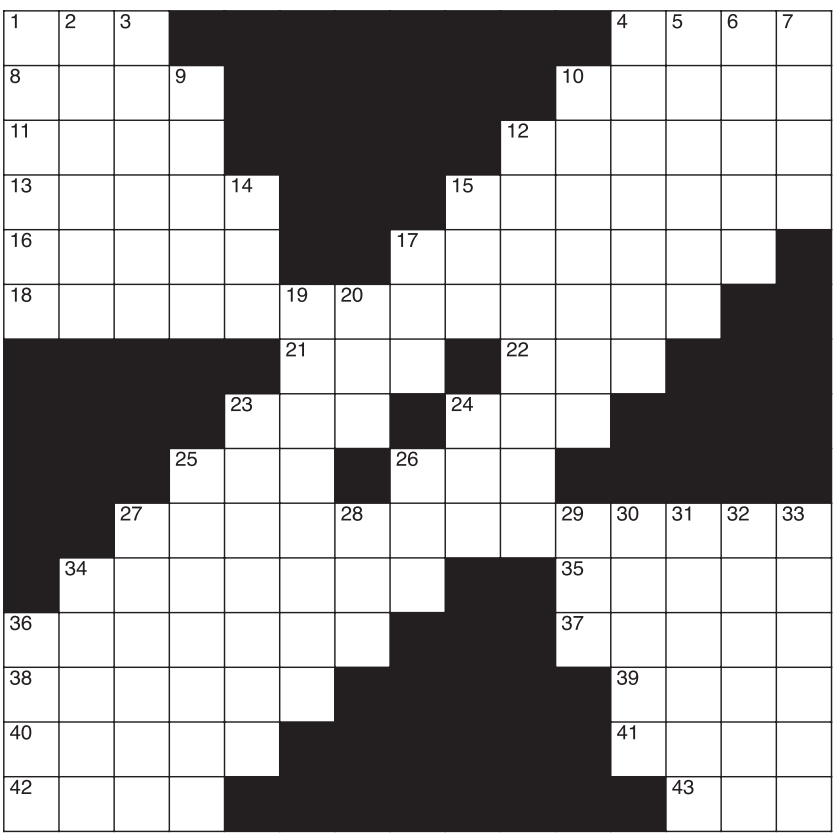
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Adequate yearly progress (abbr.)
4. Silicon Valley's specialty
8. Gather a harvest
10. Famed mathematician
11. No (slang)
12. Students use one
13. Type of molecule
15. Play make-believe
16. Large barrel-like containers
17. Touching
18. Treats allergies
21. Calendar month
22. Single
23. Cease to live

24. Brew
25. What ghosts say
26. Geological time
27. Focus
34. Discomfort
35. A citizen of Iran
36. Trip
37. Imitate
38. Makes happy
39. Double-reed instrument
40. Body parts
41. Transgressions
42. One-time emperor of Russia
43. Time zone

CLUES DOWN

1. Used in treating bruises

2. One who cultivates a small estate
3. One who supports the Pope
4. Annuity
5. Geological period
6. Grab onto tightly
7. Kept
9. Chinese city
10. The most direct route
12. Type of tooth
14. ___ kosh, near Lake Winnebago
15. Popular veggie
17. Supervises interstate commerce
19. Foolish behaviors

20. Witness
23. Gives
24. Expression of creative skill
25. A way to prop up
26. Midway between northeast and east
27. Winter melon
28. Supernatural power
29. Target
30. Threes
31. A type of poetic verse
32. They make some people cry
33. Kindest
34. Forman and Ventimiglia are two
36. A way to liquefy

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

Be aware of the impact words can have, Aries. You may think what you're saying is innocuous, but it really can do harm without intent. Be conscious of what you're saying.

CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, someone draws a proverbial line in the sand and challenges you to take action. This can be a conflict for you, especially if you're not yet ready to make a move.

LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

You may need to put rational on the side and be a little reckless in the days ahead, Libra. This may cause some temporary disarray, but take a chance.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Emotions may cloud your judgment, Capricorn. Try to look at a situation clearly so you can weigh-in in an impartial manner so you have no regrets.

TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

You don't want to disappoint people who rely on you, Taurus. But remain conscious of what you can and cannot offer other people. Find the right balance.

LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, a steep climb is before you, but with patience and perseverance, you will eventually reach the summit. Once you do, you will enjoy an extreme sense of accomplishment.

SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

You may think you have the perfect plan laid out, Scorpio. However, double- or even triple-check all of your data. Doing so will provide reassurance.

AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Sometimes the best things that happen to you can occur in the most unlikely of places, Aquarius. Always keep your eyes open and ready for surprises.

GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Spend some time alone this week to sort things out in your head before you react to a situation that has been on your mind, Gemini. Don't let others affect your state of mind.

VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Try not to nitpick your actions, Virgo. Once you make a decision, stand by your choice and defend it. Typically your gut and your mind do not steer you in the wrong direction.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, what you expect to happen this week may turn out to be the opposite of what actually happens. Be prepared for any scenario to come your way.

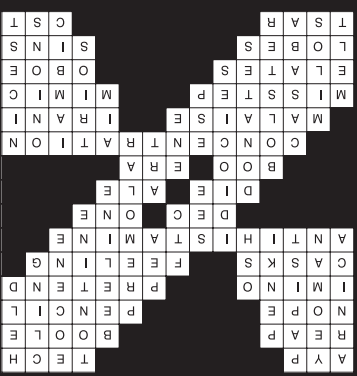
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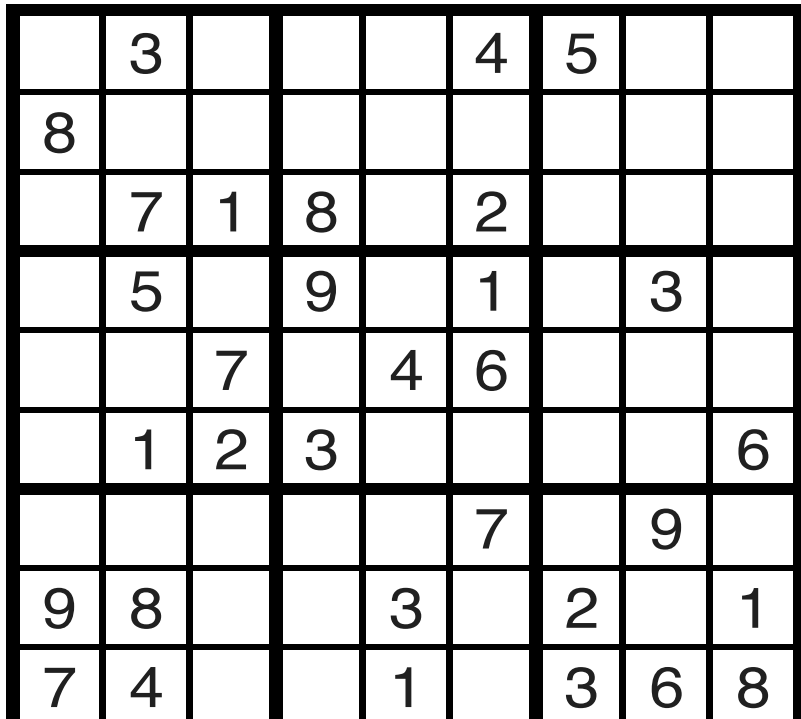
Feb 19/Mar 20

Don't fret if you don't think the same way as another group of people, Pisces. This week you will more fully develop your perspective.

answers

8	9	3	6	1	2	5	4	7
1	7	2	9	3	4	9	8	6
5	6	4	7	8	9	3	2	1
9	5	6	8	7	3	2	1	4
2	1	8	9	4	5	7	6	3
4	3	7	1	2	6	8	5	9
3	4	9	2	6	8	1	7	5
6	2	1	3	5	7	4	9	8
7	8	5	4	9	1	6	3	2





SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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OBITUARIES

Matthew Bannish, 63

Matthew Bannish, 63, passed away peacefully on Jan. 6, 2021 with his loving family by his side, after losing his battle to COVID-19. Matt was often found hanging out with his brothers and was lovingly referred to by them as a “Social Brick”, until they introduced him to the world of golf, which then became his passion. Unless there was snow on the ground, Matt was golfing most weekends! During the week Matt worked alongside his brothers at the family sawmill, Bannish Lumber, in Chester, MA. He attended Westfield schools and graduated from DeVry University second in his class with a degree in Electrical Engineering, but chose to work at the family business. Matt was a very dedicated husband and loved spending time with his family, in and out of work. He was frequently found at his brother’s home, where there were



often spaghetti dinners, margaritas, and lots of laughs. Matt leaves his wife Beverly, his brother Thaddeus and his wife Laurie, his brother Aaron and his wife Becky, his sister Samantha and her husband Dwayne, his beloved Uncle Eugene and his companion Alice, and his Aunt Dorothy. Matt also leaves behind several nieces and nephews, cousins, and close friends, many of whom he considered family. Matt was a genuinely wonderful person who will be so sadly missed by all who knew him. Services at this time will be private to help “stop the spread,” but we will be planning a Celebration of Life at a later date this year. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Matt’s memory to the GoFundMe account set up for Rebecca Manley (c/o Cassidy Sweeney).

Kathleen Mary Gravel, 76

Kathleen Mary Gravel, 76, of Kinne Brooke Road in Worthington died at home on Nov. 5, 2020. Born in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, Kathleen lived in California, Washington, and Montana before moving to Massachusetts and eventually settling in Worthington. Kathleen served for several years as a guide at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington, and also worked in the ski center of the Notchview in Windsor, both properties of the Trustees

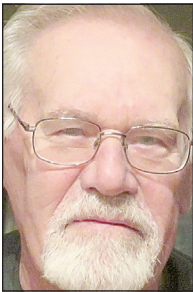
of Reservations. She enjoyed reading and was a frequent visitor to the Worthington Library. A lifelong lover of animals, Kathleen bred Pharaoh Hounds and Salukis. Her dogs frequently participated in lure coursing events, for which they won many championship trophies. She is survived by her sister, her brother, and numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grand-nephews. All services were private. The Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Joyful, loving, kind, generous. Just a few of the words that describe David Kielson, who died of COVID-19 on Dec. 31, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Gail, his daughters and their spouses, Laurie (Jaime), Linda, and Leslie (Liz). He has left a huge hole in our lives and in the lives of all who loved him. Dave made it so easy to love him because he exuded joy, warmth, and love. David spent his life dedicated to his family. He and Gail were married for over 62 years. As a couple, they were an inspiration because of their enormous love and respect for each other. Right up to very end, Dave could make Gail laugh. They loved being together and would choose it over most other things. David was also an amazing father. He gave his daughters unconditional pure love, taking pride in our accomplishments, helping out whenever needed, showing up for all of the important and not so important events in our lives. He was so playful and loved to make people laugh with his deadpan, good-natured sense of humor. Dave loved being in nature — cross-country skiing, hiking, biking, gardening. He never stopped marveling at the beauty. Not a day went by without him raving about the beauty of the natural world — the blue sky, the sun-



rise, the birds, the autumn colors, or any other small wonder. He always saw the beauty. David lived his values — the values he learned from his Jewish heritage — love, humility, empathy, and service. He was truly committed to making the world a better place and to promoting social justice. Even when he worked long hours as an accountant in New Rochelle, NY, he found time to volunteer for organizations he believed in and that continued throughout his life. The full list of organizations would be way too long to name, but a few to which he dedicated himself were the MLK Day Care Center in New Rochelle, the Hilltown CDC in Chesterfield, and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. In every instance he gave his heart and soul, working tirelessly, usually in the realm of finance since that was his area of expertise, to help keep these crucial organizations solvent and able to accomplish their mission. David also served as a selectperson in the town of Chesterfield for 24 years (He made sure to always use the non-sexist term of selectperson rather than selectman). He believed in the adage “think globally, act locally” and saw local government as a place where he could make a difference. He was on many town com-

Russell Reinke was born in Cleveland, OH on Dec. 14, 1932. The son of Edward (dec) and Olivia (Hass) Reinke (dec). He was the youngest of 5 children. Wilbur (dec), Edward (dec), Virginia (Breudigam) (dec) and Richard (dec). He is survived by his sister-in-law, Reba Reinke. He moved to Massachusetts while in the Air Force stationed at Westover. Russell is survived by his wife of 53 years, Ann (Senser) Reinke. Russell’s 6 children are: Irene Guilmette (Ronald), Lori Doppman (Peter), Kathryn Reinke (Mel Jenson), Robert Reinke (Peggy), William Reinke, and Russell Reinke (Robert Spiller, dec). He was also blessed with 12 grandchildren: Thomas Guilmette, Sharon Guilmette, Robert Reinke, Jr. (Elizabeth), Jessica Judd (Philip), Jennifer Bontempi



(Adam Southworth), Heather Reinke (Anthony Douglas), Justin Guilmette, Joshua Reinke, Jaimilee Bontempi, Ana Reinke (Gary Hunt), Eliza Byrne (Jordan), and Abigail Camerlin. Russell was doubly blessed with eight great-grandsons: Benjamin, Henry, Emerson and Nathaniel Judd, Mark Douglas, Jacob and Lucas Reinke, and Jameson Southworth. He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and nephews and great-great nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his wonderful black cat, MaMa. It is a large family, and he loved the family get-togethers at their home in Florence, where they lived for 50 years. Russell loved sports, playing football and running track in high school. As years went by, he pitched horse-shoes, bowled, played golf and softball. He pitched

mittees, including the Finance Committee, Planning Board, School Building, Senior Housing, and Green Community committees. He also represented the town on the state level, serving on the board and as president of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, gaining respect from people throughout the state. In all of this work Dave remained incredibly humble, never interested in accolades or thanks. He did it from a place of conviction and selflessness. David spent his last three years as a resident of the Memory Care Unit at the Elaine Center at Hadley. And even there, afflicted by dementia, the essence of who he was as a person came through — singing, laughing, making funny faces to get others to laugh, gifting those around him with his beaming smile. It is not always easy to feel joy in a nursing home, but Dave made it happen and, consequently, he was loved by all! We are tremendously grateful to the staff there for the loving care that they gave him. We will hold a celebration of his life this spring or summer when it is safe to gather. Donations in his honor can be made to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, 97 N. Hatfield Road, Hatfield, MA 01038 or Hilltown CDC, 387 Main Road, Chesterfield, MA 01012. For more information, or to leave a message of personal condolence, please visit Drozdalfuneralhome.com.



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DEATH NOTICES

BANNISH, MATTHEW
Died Jan. 6, 2021
Services are Private

GRAVEL, KATHLEEN MARY
Died Nov. 5, 2020
Services were private.

KIELSON, DAVID
Died Dec. 31, 2020
Celebration of life to be held at later date.

Country Journal

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Russ LaPierre explores the foundation remains of Ormsby Homestead structure, originally part of Old Littleville before the dam was built, on Old Fisk Road in Chester.

Submitted photos

Forgotten Home



There were many old relics to be found on Old Fisk Road.



Finley explores the Ormsby Homestead.



Liz Massa on the path through Chester woods.



Kim Kelliher checks out some of the forgotten stone.



A leftover pipe still stands.

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